

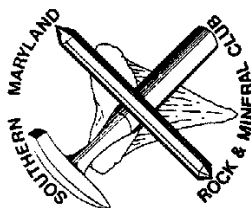
June/July 2009



SOUTHERN MARYLAND ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB



Rock Talk



Message from the President

As I sit here typing this message, it is really hot and humid. I have a fan blowing on me to keep cool, but even on the lowest setting it blows my papers around. You see, my filing system consists of covering every square inch of my desk with piles of paper-piles of files, or the pile system. It works pretty well for me, except when I turn the fan on, and then the papers blow away. Some of my stacks are pretty tall, so if left unattended in the fan breeze, it can get pretty messy pretty quick. Not to mention upsetting my filing system so that I can't find stuff. I have tried to fix this by using books, staplers, etc. as paperweights, but recently have I started using pyrite cubes because my piles outnumbered my available paperweights. I got these pyrite cubes last month at the rock club meeting, where Bill Gilbert gave a great presentation on pyrite

collecting in Spain. (Bill has other talks he can give and I for one would love to see them at our club meetings! Hint, hint.)

If you weren't there, you not only missed an excellent presentation, you missed the chance to pick up some very nice pyrite specimens at really reasonable prices. I'm talking about one inch cubes of pyrite. Not only are these shiny gold cubes beautiful, but with a density of around 5 g/cc they are heavy as well, and make great paperweights. (I was going to turn this column into another mineral/mathematical puzzle, but I ran out of time and plus I figured that Dave Lines would probably win and he doesn't need any more pyrite samples. But I have an idea for a pyrite-galena based puzzle for a future issue of Rock Talk-look for it!). Since it doesn't look like the air conditioning sys-

tem will be fixed any time soon, I expect these cubes will be getting quite a workout this summer. Their biggest problem with them is that people are really attracted to them, and when they pick one up to admire it, all my papers go flying off in the breeze! Even the environmental wacko types enjoy the pyrite crystals, and some of them fondle them worse than the new age crystal freaks. I didn't have the heart to tell them that exposed pyrite (FeS₂) can react with oxygen and water (with bacterial help) to form sulfate, also known as acid mine drainage. Let them simply enjoy the golden cubes, nature at its finest. No sense stirring them up, next thing you know I might need a permit or license to collect pyrite!

The program for the next rock club meeting is Stone Carving. I hope to see you all there next Tuesday. —Alex

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Meetings

...are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm.

Clearwater Nature Center 11000 Thrift Road
Clinton, MD.

For more information, call Michael at (301) 297-4575.

Rocks in My Head

By Ralph Gamba

Rocks in My Head (Sung to the tune of "Beans in my Ear")

People all tell me I have rocks in my head; Rocks in my head; Rocks in my head.

People all tell me I have rocks in my head; Rocks in my head.

I started collecting all those rocks in my head; Rocks in my head; Rocks in my head.

I started collecting all those rocks in my head; Rocks in my head;

I gather up my tools, my hard hat and my steel toed shoes; Steel toed shoes; Steel toed shoes.

I gather up my tools, my hard hat and my steel toed shoes; Steel toed shoes.

It's 90 degrees out I must have rocks in my head; Rocks in my head; Rocks in my head.

It's 90 degrees out I must have rocks in my head; Rocks in my head.

I drive down into a large hole and I dig and dig; Dig and dig; Sweat and sweat.

I drive down into a large hole and I dig and dig; Sweat and sweat.

To do this I must have rocks in my head; Rocks in my head; Rocks in my head.

To do this I must have rocks in my head; Rocks in my head.

I look for all those rocks in my head; Azurite; Malachite.

I look for all those rocks in my head; Hematite.

There's beryl and shorl and prehnite; Stilbite; Pyrite.

There's gold and silver and sulfur; and diamond.

To do this I must have rocks in my head; rocks in my head; Rocks in my head.

To do this I must have rocks in my head; Rocks in my head

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***If corrections or additions are needed, please contact Rocktalk Editor

Minutes...

Polly Zimmerman

The June 25th meeting of the Southern Maryland Rock and Mineral Club was called to order at 7:14 pm.

Minutes – The minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer – Balance remains the same.

Membership - Introduction of guests and new members. There are 71 paid members. November meeting does not have a program as yet. Junior members will begin at 8yrs. Of age due to “Smart Link” rules.

Field Trips – Herkimer trip was great with the exception of the rain.

Morefield trip had 16 join, some went down into the mine.

June trip will be the Lake Anna swap meet and potluck with some rock hunting in Contrary Creek following.

Rock Talk Editor – New members will be introduced.

June and July’s newsletter will be combined and Aug. will contain news from field trips from the June and July trips.

Web Master – Web sight is getting lots of hits. Smrmc.webs.com

Old Business – Rock show for March 2010, Carol will chair a committee to look into different locations.

New Business - New Rock room is ready for classes, Some things still need to be mover around.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm for snacks and program. Refreshments: “Good for the waist-line”

Program: Bill Gilbert-Minerals of Spain

You Might Be a Rockhound If:

By Ralph Gamba

Your car has a bumper sticker that says "This car stops at all roadcuts."

You hit rock bottom – and start digging.

You are discussing cleavage and don't think of women.

When your boss sends you on travel and the first thing you do is research rock collecting sites.

You are playing Scrabble® and use the words "aa", "adit" and "vug" – and know their meaning.

You know that sodalite is not a diet beverage.

Field Trip Report

By Dave Lines

"The following club members attended the Morefield Mine Field trip on Saturday, May 23rd: Ann Siegal, Chris Proctor, Harry and Tina League, Larry O'Callaghan, Mike Bolster, Paul and Linda Holden, Ralph Gamba, Al and Carole Raucheisen, David, Jennifer, Mike and Samantha Knies and Dave Lines.

Everyone found some great specimens from Morefield (and other locations). Some of us took the underground tour. And all were allowed access (for FREE) to the trench area west of the mine --- lots of mica, quartz and a strong hopes for large beryl crystals.

Next Field Trip will be to Contrary Creek** after the Lake Anna Rock Swap (see flyer on page 7) on Saturday, June 20th. Hope to see you there."

**Contrary Creek (about 10 miles away) after the Picnic/Swap to look for garnet/magnetite/pyrite xls --- so bring some old clothes that you can get WET in and a change of clothes to return home in.

Time will be from 3 to 5 p.m.

Tools needed: rock hammer, 3-4 pound hammer, garden scratcher, shovel, screen (1/8 to 1/4 inch mesh), sunscreen, bucket, empty film canister for small finds.

Meet at the Picnic/Swap at 2:30 p.m.

State Rocks

By Jessica Thomson

<i>State</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Year</i>
<u>Alabama</u>	Marble	1969
<u>Arkansas</u>	Bauxite	1967
<u>California</u>	Serpentine	1965
<u>Colorado</u>	Yule Marble	2004
<u>Iowa</u>	Geode	1967
<u>Kentucky</u>	Kentucky Agate	2000
<u>Massachusetts</u>	Roxbury Puddingstone (Roxbury Conglomerate)	1983
<u>Missouri</u>	Mozarkite	1967
<u>Nebraska</u>	Chalcedony stone (Prairie Agate)	1943
<u>Nevada</u>	Sandstone	1987
<u>New Hampshire</u>	Granite	1985
<u>North Carolina</u>	Granite	1979
<u>Oklahoma</u>	Barite Rose (Rose Rock)	1968
<u>Oregon</u>	Thunderegg	1965
<u>Rhode Island</u>	Cumberlandite	1966
<u>Tennessee</u>	Calcium Carbonate (Limestone)	1979
<u>Utah</u>	Coal	1991
<u>Vermont</u>	Marble, Granite, Slate	1991
<u>Wisconsin</u>	Red Granite	1971

Sources:

[http://www.netstate.com/states/tables/
state_rocks_all.htm](http://www.netstate.com/states/tables/state_rocks_all.htm)

[http://www.minsocam.org/msa/collectors_corner/
offmin.htm](http://www.minsocam.org/msa/collectors_corner/offmin.htm)



Meet the Member

Submitted by Carole Raucheisen

Name: Linda Holden

Area live in: Cheltenham

Place of birth: Washington, D. C.

Occupation: Retired elementary school teacher: grades K, 4 and 5

Marital status/spouse's name: Paul

Number and ages of children: 35 year old Karen

How became interested in rocks/minerals/fossils: While traveling, Linda and Paul would collect interesting rocks. After a friend showed them a flyer advertising the rock show, they came, and joined the club.

How long a collector: Since 2001 when they retired. They started collecting on a 5-week trip out west.

What you like to collect: Rocks that look different.

Favorite find and how found: Herkimer Diamonds.

Favorite Rock Club experience: In Herkimer. Linda went with Bob, and she said he was so patient, the perfect partner. They worked for hours and hours only finding small crystals. Just a couple of hours before the mine closed, they hit a pocket. Linda worried they would not be able to get them out in time. She wanted to smash the boulder to get them, but Bob encouraged her to work carefully or they would destroy the crystals. They finally got them out. Linda said it was so exciting.

Funniest Rock Club experience: On her first rock club trip, to Rose River, Dave was leading her across a river where she collected so many rocks she is sure Dave wanted to drown her. But he got her good. Dave was teaching Linda about the various rocks in the area. He pointed to one particular rock and told her she had found a leaverite. She was so excited until he told her to leaverite there.

Most memorable field trip: Rose River because it was her first trip.

What you have gained from the Rock Club: Good friends and learning about minerals.

What you would still like to find/collect: New and different things. Mt. Ida quartz crystals, Tourmaline, and Beryl.

Other interests: Travel, jewelry making, camping, hiking, being outdoors, bicycling the Rails to Trails.

Lake Anna Swap Flyer

Courtesy of Dee Tinsley, EFMLS Region IV VP

Date: June 20, 2009

Time: 10:00-3:00

Region IV Annual Picnic & Swap Lake Anna State Park ★ Shelter #3 (not in picture below)



Bring your lawn chair

Bring your own drinks and a dish to share

Bring your swap materials

Bring a door prize donation and surplus items
for the treasure box.

Directions: I-95 to exit #118 Thornburg;
West on Rte 606 to Rte 208; Turn left onto Rte
208; Continue to Rte 601 and turn right onto
Rte 601 (turn is just past Lake Anna Marine
Supplies & Hardware); Continue on Rte 601
then turn left into Park; follow park road to
lake, the physical address for the park is:
6800 Lawyers Road Spotsylvania VA 22551
and when you arrive ask a Ranger for
directions to Shelter #3. Email or call with
any questions: Dee Tinsley, EFMLS Region IV
VP flydeetin@gmail.com; 434-221-0864

*Highlights: Mineral Swapping,
renowned Region IV Treasure
Box, and an outstanding Picnic
Pot Luck Lunch.*

10:00 AM- Swapping begins early, so
arrive early for the best swapping
options. Don't forget- no selling allowed
in the park.

12:00- Lunch will feature Lynchburg
Gem and Mineral Society's famous
Barbecue or "sugar cured ham". Please
bring your own drinks and a dish to
share.

1:30PM- A fun Auction of the weird,
wild, funny and unusual—please donate
items for the auction. These should be at
least somewhat hobby related.

Door Prizes- Please bring one to donate—
everyone loves to win. The more
donations, the more winners we will
have.



ROCKTALK

Clearwater Nature Center
 Maryland-National Capital Park &
 Planning Commission
 11000 Thrift Road



We're on the web:
www.freewebs.com/smrmc/

Message from the Editor

Happy Summer everyone! I hope everyone is staying dry in all of this rain we are having.

I want to remind everyone that this issue of the RockTalk is a two-month edition. Around this time next month I will be in Alaska, hopefully searching the rubble of a gold mine for a missed treasure.

I would also like to remind everyone that we do need to report all of the trips we take in the newsletter for insurance purposes. It would be nice if those who participate could share in the task of reporting so it isn't always on the same people. One person could send pictures and another could write a short report. It's always nice to hear everyone's perspective!

I saw this comic last month in the

express (a publication of The Washington Post), the free paper they give out on the metro. Alex was kind enough to have found it in color. Thought you'd enjoy it as much as I did.

See you Tuesday and then in August.



PROGRAMS/REFRESHMENTS

June	<u>Program:</u> Stone Carving <u>Refreshments:</u>
July	<u>Program:</u> _____ <u>Refreshments:</u> Ralph Gamba
August	Annual Auction and Potluck
September	<u>Program:</u> Ralph Gamba <u>Refreshments:</u> Lorna and Mel Larson
October	<u>Program:</u> Geology of Maryland <u>Refreshments:</u> Polly Zimmerman and Jessica Thomson
November	<u>Program:</u> _____ <u>Refreshments:</u> Paul and Linda Holden
December	Annual Holiday Potluck Party